

ALASKA POTATO STOCKS

Alaska Division of Agriculture
Alaska Cooperative Extension
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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As of December 1, 2005

All potatoes in storage in **ALASKA** as of December 1, 2005 totaled 129,000 cwt. This was 78 percent of the 2005 crop and compares with 137,000 cwt or 77 percent on hand during the same period last year. The 2003 level for the December 1 stocks was 110,000 cwt. The five year average stocks on hand for December 1 is 131,100 cwt.

Disappearance since October 1 was 16,000 cwt, compared with 17,000 cwt last year, and the five year average of 23,900 cwt. Disappearance of potatoes from the start of the harvest to December 1 totaled 37,000 cwt; comparable disappearance for a year earlier was 40,000 cwt. The five year average is 40,500 cwt. The disappearance since October 1 reflects sales, shrinkage and waste, as well as losses caused after harvest by late blight and frost damage. In 2005 late blight was identified in fields in the Mat-Su Valley. Losses in the field due to late blight ranged from severe to mild. Losses post-harvest are included in the disappearance. In 2004 there was a small loss of potatoes due to frost damage, while in 2003 there was significant loss due to frost damage that is reflected in the disappearance.

Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purpose and uses, including seed potatoes that are not yet moved, and shrinkage, waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report.

Revisions have been made to the earlier published October 1, 2005 Potato Stocks and production estimates. The October 1, 2005 stocks number was revised up to 145,000 cwt. The production estimate for potatoes was revised up to 166,000 cwt. Revisions are based on more up-to-date information provided by producers.

The **13 MAJOR POTATO STATES** held 253 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2005, down 6 percent from last year and 5 percent below December 1, 2003, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 68 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, 1 percentage point above last year. Disappearance of 120 million cwt of potatoes is down 8 percent from last year and 10 percent below 2 years ago for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 14.0 million cwt so far this season, is down 9 percent from last year and 6 percent below the same date in 2003 for comparable States. Processors in the 9 major States have used 65.9 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 7 percent from a year ago and 9 percent below two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 12.2 million cwt of the total processing, down 16 percent from last year and 14 percent below the same date in 2003.

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ALASKA POTATO STOCKS – DECEMBER 1, 2005

Year	Stocks		Production	December 1 Stocks as a Percent of Production
	Dec. 1	Oct. 1		
	----- 1,000 Cwt -----			-- Percent --
2005	129.0	145.0	166.0	78%
2004	137.0	154.0	177.0	77%
2003	110.0	147.0	168.0	66%